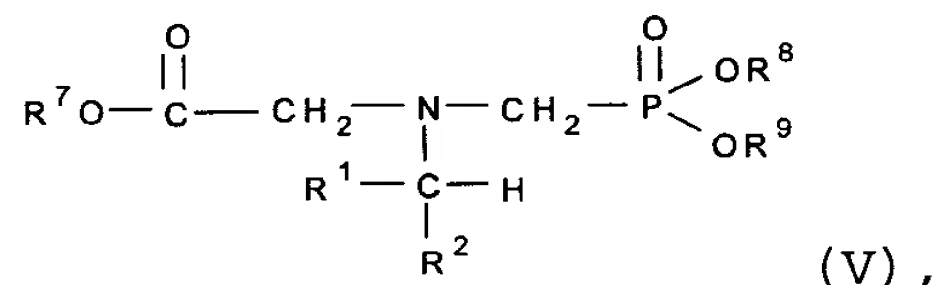


PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF
N-(PHOSPHONOMETHYL)GLYCINE BY OXIDIZING
N-SUBSTITUTED N-(PHOSPHONOMETHYL)GLYCINES

ABSTRACT

5 This invention is directed to an improved
process for the preparation of N-(phosphonomethyl)glycine
(i.e., "glyphosate"), a salt of N-
(phosphonomethyl)glycine, or an ester of N-
(phosphonomethyl)glycine. The process comprises
10 combining an N-substituted N-(phosphonomethyl)glycine
reactant with oxygen in the presence of a noble metal
catalyst. The N-substituted N-(phosphonomethyl)glycine
reactant has formula (V):



15 wherein R¹ and R² are independently selected from the
group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, -PO₃R¹²R¹³, -SO₃R¹⁴,
-NO₂, hydrocarbyl, and substituted hydrocarbyl other than
-CO₂R¹⁵; and R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴, and R¹⁵ are
independently selected from the group consisting of
20 hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl, and an
agronomically acceptable cation.